

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to insert a statement that the present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP03/05676, filed May 30, 2003.

Claim 13 has been cancelled, without prejudice.

For the sake of clarity, claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended to insert the term "and" and a semicolon after the term "L-sorbose" and to insert semicolons after the terms "compounds" and "heme c." It is respectfully submitted that this amendment is formal in nature and does not change the scope of the claims in any manner.

Claim 7 has further been amended to replace the term "aldehyde" with the term "aldose." Support for this amendment is found in original claim 7 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 2, Ins. 21-30. See, *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l).

Claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended as set forth above to eliminate multiple dependencies. Support for this amendment is found in original claims 8, 11 and 12. *Id.*

Claim 14 has been added. Support for this claim is found in original claim 8. *Id.*

Claim 15 has been added. Support for this claim is found in original claim 9. *Id.*

Claim 16 has been added. Support for this claim is found in original claim 5 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 10, Ins. 19-26. *Id.*

Claim 17-19 have been added. Support for this claim is found in original claims 9 and 10 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 9, Ins. 19-22 and pg. 11, Ins. 13-21. *Id.*

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments and claims. Approval and entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits, and allowance of all the claims, respectfully, are requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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